

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 OMB-01 /104 W

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R 020300Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2444

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

CONFIDENTIAL MUSCAT 1087

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN US MU

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: OMANI COMMENTS ON NON-ALIGNED
SUMMIT

REF: STATE 178439

1. FONMIN UNDERSECRETARY YUSUF AL-ALAWI, WHO REPRESENTED
OMAN AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL THROUGHOUT COLOMBO CONFERENCE,
MADE THESE OBSERVATIONS DURING CALL BY AMBASSADOR AUGUST 31.

2. HE SAID SAHARA ISSUE TOOK TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF TIME OF
ARAB DELEGATIONS. THE ALGERIAN SIDE DREW HEAVY SUPPORT FROM
"ALMOST ALL THE REALLY LEFTIST AFRICAN STATES". HE INDICATED
OMAN IS STILL SQUARELY IN BACK OF MOROCCO ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. ZONE OF PEACE ISSUE MEANS DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT
PEOPLE, SAID AL-ALAWI. ITS MAIN PROPONENTS AT COLOMBO
SEEMED TO BE ZEROING IN ON U.S. ACTIVITY ON DIEGO GARCIA, BUT
OTE ONLY TIMES THEY DREW NEAR-UNANIMOUS SUPPORT WERE WHEN THEY
FOCUSED ON THE THEME OF KEEPING INDIAN OCEAN NUCLEAR-FREE.

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OTHERWISE, HE SAID, THE ISSUE MAINLY JUST THROWS UP CONFUSION

BECAUSE ITS EXACT AIM AND COROLLARIES ARE UNCLEAR. HE THOUGHT INDIA PARTICULARLY WOULD BE FOLLOWING UP MATTER, AND WORLD WOULD BE HEARING GOOD DEAL MORE ABOUT IT DURING THE UNGA.

4. ASKED ABOUT KOREA, AL-ALAWI MAINTAINED THAT OMAN DID RECORD ITS RESERVATIONS TO THE VERY ONE-SIDED RESOLUTION THAT GOT THROUGH. EVEN WHEN PRESSED, HE WAS VAGUE ON JUST WHAT FORM THIS RESERVATION TOOK. (COMMENT: WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IF DEPARTMENT OR COLOMBO HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THIS POINT. THOUGH OMANDEL LEFT MUSCAT WITH APPARENTLY FIRM INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SULTAN HIMSELF TO STAND UP FOR ROK, IT HAS BEEN CLEAR ALL YEAR FROM REMARKS BY AL-ALAWI AND OTHERS THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY "WORKING LEVEL" IS INCLINED TO WAFFLE ON THIS ISSUE, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OMAN FELT SO ISOLATED ON IT AT 1975 UNGA. AL-ALAWI ADDED THAT HE PERSONALLY DOUBTS DPRK WILL PROVE TO HAVE ANY MORE SUPPORT THAN LAST YEAR WHEN THIS WHOLE QUESTION COMES UP FOR VOTING AT NEW YORK, IN FACT PROBABLY A BIT LESS SUPPORT. CLEARLY HE BELIEVES DPRK OFFENDED SOME DELEGATES AT COLOMBO BY OVERREACTING AND OVER-DEMANDING, BUT THAT ROK ON OTHER HAND WAS MUCH TOO INACTIVE AND INVISIBLE FOR ITS OWN GOOD.

5. AL-ALAWI ASSERTED THAT LIBYA'S QADDAFI MADE POOR IMPRESSION ON OTHER DELEGATES, SPEAKING TOO LONG AND SUFFERING FROM LACK OF PREPARED TEXT.

6. HE STATED FLATLY THAT OMAN WILL NOT ATTEND NEXT NAM SUMMIT SINCE IT WILL BE HELD IN HAVANA. LIKEWISE, HE CLAIMED, MANY OTHERS WILL NOT ATTEND ANY MEETING IN CUBA, THUS, UNFORTUNATELY, GIVING EXTREMISTS A FREER HAND THAN EVER.

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